

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc.
Annual Business Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023

MINUTES

Meeting Called to Order at 9:05 am

1. Welcome and Introductions Bobby Hettmansperger
President Bobby Hettmansperger called the 80th meeting of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Inc., (IASWCD) to order at 9:05 am. He welcomed and introduced the executive officers:
He welcomed and introduced the executive officers as: Jeff Baker, Vice President; Sarah Delbecq, Treasurer; Marc Roberts, Secretary; Roger Wenning, Past President; and, himself as President. He also introduced Ed Frazier, Parliamentarian.

2. Seating of Delegates / Roll Call..... Marc Roberts
Marc reported that there are 66 delegates present and ready to vote, providing a quorum.

Bobby referred to the proposed meeting rules in the front of the 2023 Delegate Notebook. A vote in favor of adopting the Procedures and Rules was taken. More than two thirds were in favor. No one opposed.

3. Minutes of 2022 Annual Business Meeting Bobby Hettmansperger
Bobby stated that the 2022 minutes were approved during the December 15, (16?) 2022 IASWCD Board Meeting in accordance to a bylaw amendment made in 2019.

4. Treasurer’s Report..... Sarah Delbecq
Sarah referred to the FY2022 statement in the Delegate Notebook. She further stated that 86 counties paid dues in 2022 and that IASWCD appreciates the continued support. Sarah mentioned that last year’s conference revenue was lower than the expenses because of lower registration due to Covid.

President Bobby stated that the **Treasurer’s report would be filed.**

5. Audit Committee ReportSarah Delbecq Sarah stated, since 2018, the IASWCD has been engaged in third party audits, as is required by the federal government Single Audit, formerly known as Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. These audits are required for entities that exceed the threshold of \$750,000 in federal dollars expended in a single fiscal year. Another third party audit was completed in November of 2022 for this past fiscal year ending on September 30, 2022. The third party audit found no misrepresentation of the financial records, and all reports have been submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse as required. As a reminder, due to the timing overlap with the normal IASWCD audit committee review in December, the board has decided that the federally required third party audits will be substitute for the traditional internal IASWCD audit committee review. The federally required audits must be completed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and thus are much more rigorous than our internal audits. The audit findings report is available upon request from the IASWCD Executive Director. IASWCD brings in a lot of federal grant dollars and that is what makes us subject to those audits.

Acceptance of the Audit Committee Report was presented by Bobby Hettmansperger. Vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the Audit Committee Report. No one opposed.

6. Budget Committee Report.....Sarah Delbecq Sarah stated that the proposed budget for 2023 is printed in your delegate notebook and she moved for the adoption of the proposed 2023 budget as printed. Sarah noted that IASWCD has a bit of a surplus which will be managed properly.

Bobby asked for acceptance of the adoption of the proposed 2023 budget as printed. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous in favor of the budget with no opposition.

7. Resolutions.....Roger Wenning President Bobby Hettmansperger reminded the assembly that each person may speak twice to each motion and for a maximum of three minutes each time. Speaking a second time may happen after everyone has had a chance to speak the first time. Vice President Jeff Baker read the first resolution and Bobby asked for discussion and called for a vote after the resolution was read.

1. Resolution Title: SICIM membership in Indiana Conservation Partnership

- Submitted by: Knox County SWCD

- Jeff read the resolution title
- Discussion from assembly
 - Ray Chattin described the scope, mission and accomplishments of SICIM
 - Majority voted in favor; 6 opposed
 - Resolution adopted

2. Resolution Title: Inclusion of the office of SWCD Supervisor on General Ballot

- Submitted by: Knox County SWCD
- Jeff read the resolution title
- Discussion from assembly
 - Ray Chattin described the resolution and how it will provide both a platform to raise public awareness about the mission and needs of districts as well as a duty by supervisors to protect the natural resources entrusted to their care. There is precedent for this from other states and they are performing well in the conservation arena.
 - Jennings County Brad Ponsler clarified this would be a non partisan position similar to school boards.
 - Ken Gunkel, Dearborn County asked whether the constitution of Indiana would have to change to make this happen which at this point in time is unclear.
 - Majority opposed; 3 voted in favor
 - Resolution not adopted

3. Resolution Title: Closed Landfill Funding

- Submitted by: Jennings County SWCD
- Jeff read the resolution title
- Discussion from assembly
 - Matt Branham, Jennings County, stated that current IDEM

regulations place a major financial burden on counties with closed landfills. He noted that the state of Indiana has a budget surplus and proposed establishing a fund to assist counties in maintaining water quality, controlling run off and addressing other issues caused by the landfills.

- John Newby with Delaware County provided clarification stating that the owner/operator of the landfill is responsible for maintenance for 30 years after the landfill closes, so these funds would only be utilized if landfill owners default on their responsibility.
- Marc Roberts, Montgomery County, asked for clarification about what role the IASWCD Board would play and what actions are being specifically requested of the board in terms of this resolution.
- Ray Chattin, Knox County, suggested amending the resolution to say: IASWCD leadership will take this issue to an ICP leaders meeting and bring forth this issue and add it to their lobbying efforts.
- Bobby Hettmansperger, Wabash County, asked if this will apply to private and public landfills. He noted that the resolution would need to be carefully worded because these are two different situations.
- Jeff Meinders, Ripley County, stressed the importance of being proactive and getting funding in place to take care of things after the 30 year limit of liability for the owner, making it a more feasible way to take care of them at that point; having inspections and monitoring in place would be helpful.
- Chris Matthys, St. Joseph County, asked what actions county officials in Jennings County have done already deal with this problem. He asked if we are certain it is a state-wide issue.
 - Brad Ponsler, Jennings County, stated that the county is involved in the issue and that it places an undue burden on county finances.
- John Fielding, White County, noted that the resolution needs a

modification in terms of what, specifically, it's asking this organization to do.

- Majority opposed; 20 voted in favor
- Resolution not adopted

4. Resolution Title: Restructuring of Conservancy Groups

- Submitted by: Pike County SWCD
- Jeff read the resolution title
- Discussion from assembly
 - Paul Lake, Pike County stated this resolution doesn't change the mission of the conservancy districts. He noted that conservancy districts have no requirement to have a land owner who resides in the district on the board of the conservancy district. He believes the general assembly should be approached about adding that requirement to conservancy board membership.
 - Majority opposed; 15 in favor
 - Resolution not adopted

No additional resolutions were brought forward from the floor.

8. Nominating Committee Report.....Bobby Hettmansperger A list of nominees was announced by Past President Roger Wenning.

Slate of Officers was as follows:

- **For President: Jeff Baker, Warrick County**
- **For Vice President: Marc Roberts, Montgomery County**
- **For Secretary: Sarah Delbecq, DeKalb County**
- **For Treasurer: Mark Kingma, Jasper County (not present)**

Bobby reiterated the nominees and asked for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Each candidate briefly addressed the delegates:

Jeff Baker – Supervisor from Warrick County is excited about the opportunity to represent the districts and looks forward to continuing to work with the new Executive Director and the Board and to improve communication.

Marc Roberts – lives in Montgomery County and looks forward to working with Jeff and the rest of the Board. He is looking forward to bringing IRA dollars to conservation in Indiana.

Sarah Delbecq – stated that she is happy to continue to be a part of the IASWCD Board and serve as the delegates see fit. She hopes to bridge work being done across the state with individual districts and noted that the state association has a role to play with each district.

Roger Wenning on behalf of Mark Kingma – Mark is the NNW region director. He has a very strong conservation ethic and works well with the board. He is looking forward to serving in this capacity.

Troy Hattery & Stan Moore are the election tellers.

Bobby asked for a consent vote for slate of officers. Majority voted yes with no opposition. Slate of officers was accepted.

9. Executive Director’s Report.....Bobby Hettmansperger

Bobby Hettmansperger, President of the IASWCD Board, addressed the assembly regarding the following annual highlights:

- Very productive year; members were asked to be on committees from the Governor’s office.
- A lot of time and energy spent working with ISDA; new educational training program for the coming year; encouraged all present to share this information with fellow board members and encourage their participation.
- Thanked Joe Schmees for guiding us well, especially through Covid and noted that Joe is still involved in conservation with his new position. • Announced Liz Rice as the new Executive Director for IASWCD. She has previous experience with the association.

10. New Business Election Report.....Bobby
Hettmansperger Roger Wenning announced new Officers:

- **For President: Jeff Baker, Warrick County**
- **For Vice President: Marc Roberts, Montgomery County**
- **For Secretary: Sarah Delbecq, DeKalb County**
- **For Treasurer: Mark Kingma, Jasper County (not present)**

Bobby Hettmansperger confirmed list of 2023 IASWCD Executive Officers.

11. Other business.....Bobby
Hettmansperger ▪ Bobby asked for any additional business from the assembly.

- John Kruse, XXXXX County, motion to destroy the ballots
- Vote was unanimous in favor of destroying ballots. None opposed.

12. Oath of Office.....Kenny Cain, SSCB Kenny Cain,
Indiana State Soil Conservation Board, performed the oath of office with the
newly elected officers.

They were asked if they agreed to fulfill the duties of their respective offices as stated in the IASWCD bylaws to the best of their ability. They agreed. Kenny declared them duly installed as the 2023 Executive Officers of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Mark Kingma, Treasurer, was not present.

13. Adjournment.....Bobby
Hettmansperger Bobby asked for any further business that needed to come
before the assembly.

John Kruse asked what happens with old resolutions – are they followed up on? The board does do a review of them. They are brought before the Executive Director to look them over and are also discussed at the IASWCD board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.